

SENATE BILL 2642
By Burks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, to authorize the issuance of special license plates promoting agriculture.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(3) is amended by adding the following new subsection:

() Agricultural;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-203 is amended by adding the following new subsection:

() Agricultural--twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2 is amended by adding the following new section:

Section ___. (a) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles or recreational vehicles who are residents of the state of Tennessee and who wish to promote agriculture in Tennessee through market development, education, and awareness, upon complying with state motor vehicle or recreational vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles or recreational vehicles, and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle or recreational vehicle and the fee provided for in Section 55-4-203, shall be issued a special license plate, either for an automobile, recreational vehicle, or a truck of one-half (1/2) or three-quarter (3/4) ton rating.

(b) The additional fee imposed in Section 55-4-203 for the issuance of agricultural special license plates shall be earmarked for and appropriated to the

department of agriculture for deposit in the Agricultural Development Fund. The Agricultural Development Fund shall be used exclusively for funding projects and activities that promote market development for agricultural products, as well information, education, and awareness about agriculture in Tennessee. The Commissioner of Agriculture may issue grants from the Agricultural Development Fund for the purposes set forth in this act. Monies in the Agricultural Development Fund shall not revert to the general fund at the end of any fiscal year, but shall be carried forward in a reserve fund into the next fiscal year to be reappropriate for the purposes set forth in this act. All interest accruing on investments and deposits in the Agricultural Development Fund not otherwise expended shall be returned to and made a part of the Fund.

(c) The special plates provided for in this section shall be issued in conformity with the provisions of Section 55-4-202, and shall be designed in consultation with the commissioner of agriculture and the commissioner of safety.

(d)

(1) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to mean that any eligible person shall be prevented from exchanging a regular type plate for one of special design; provided, that the fees prescribed under section 55-4-203 are paid.

(2) The whole are parts of the fee for a special registration plate shall not be refunded for the exchange of a regular plate.

(e)

(1) Special plates issued pursuant to this section may be transferred to another vehicle of the same weight class owned or leased by the same person upon proper application being made therefor and approved by the department of safety.

(2) It is unlawful for any person to whom such plates have been issued to knowingly permit them to be displayed on any vehicle, except as authorized by the department.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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